

Patients' perceptions of frequent hospital admissions: A qualitative study with elderly above 65 years

BACKGROUND

- Frequent flyers represent 3 to 8 percent of the total patient population
- Yet they are responsible for 12 to 28 percent of all admissions
- Important contributors to health care costs and overpopulation in hospitals

OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of this study is to comprehend the phenomenon of the frequent flyer. Objectives are to:

1. Understand the patients' perspectives on the cause of their frequent hospital admissions
2. Identify the perceived consequences of the frequent flyer status

METHODS

STUDY DESIGN and SETTING

- Study: Qualitative
- Design: Phenomenological
- COREQ guidelines
- Location: UZ Leuven Gasthuisberg
- Study period: 01/2019 - 05/2019

STUDY POPULATION

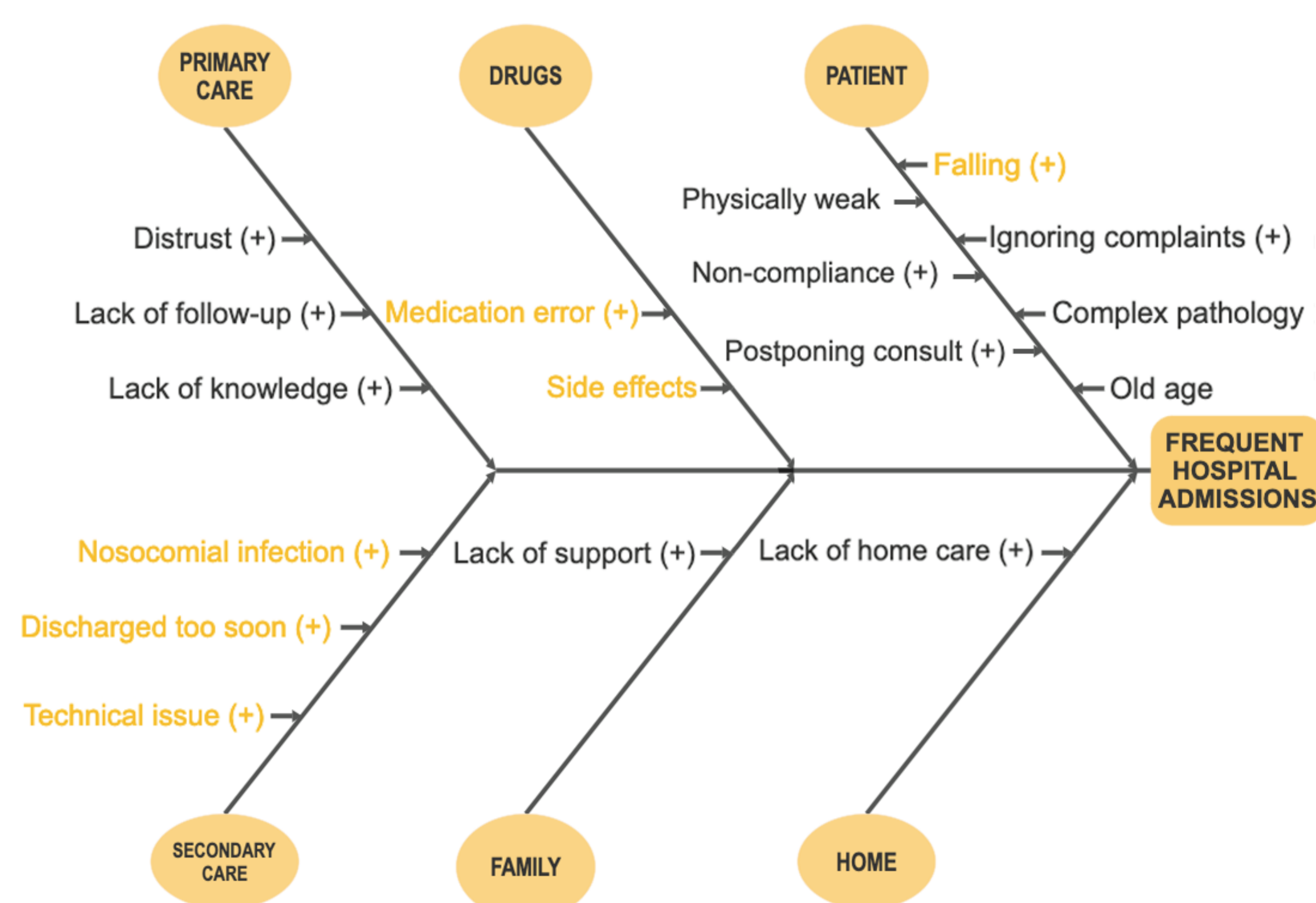
- Hospitalised for at least four times in the past 12 months
- Over the age of 65
- Admitted at the time of the study

DATA ANALYSIS

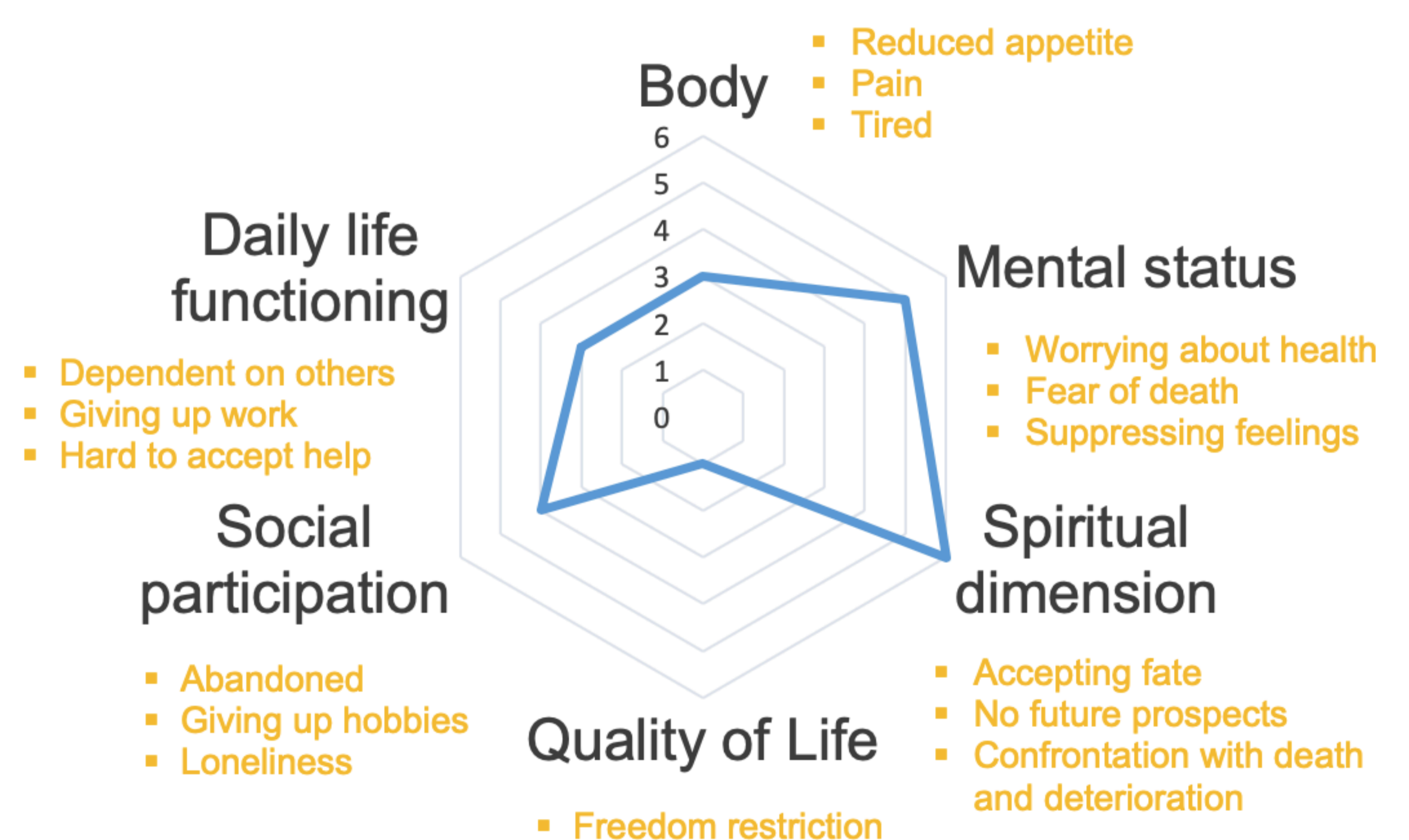
- QUAGOL guidelines
- NVivo Pro

RESULTS

PERCEIVED CAUSES



PERCEIVED CONSEQUENCES



Legend: yellow= trigger, black= underlying cause and (+)= preventable or modifiable

CONCLUSION

- Focus on preventable or modifiable causes of frequent hospital admissions
- The need for introduction of the spiritual and existential dimension in healthcare
- More qualitative research is crucial to increase understanding of frequent flyers